

(Continued from front cover)

but raised concerns about a lack of moisture for fall-sown crops. Much cooler weather, accompanied by scattered showers, spread into the **Great Basin** and **Northwest**, boosting topsoil moisture and aiding wildfire containment efforts. More significant rainfall (locally in excess of 2 inches) soaked **Arizona** and adjacent areas, reducing long-term moisture deficits. Heavy rain (2 to 4 inches or more) maintained wet conditions in the **Mid-Atlantic region** and eased drought in parts of the **Southeast**, especially across **northern Georgia**.

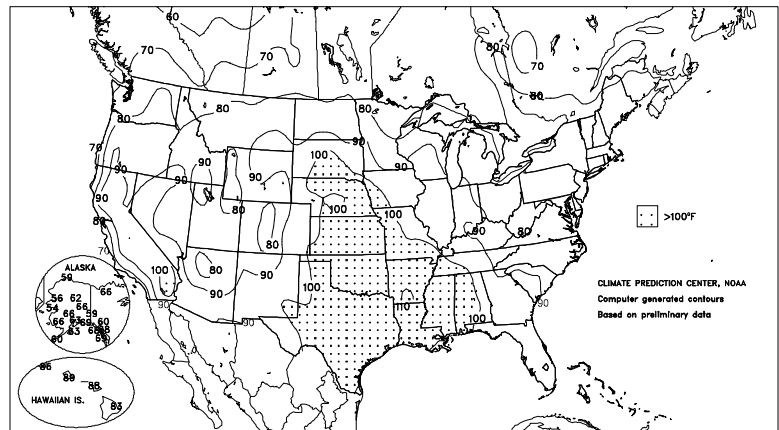
The heat wave—unprecedented for not only its record-high temperatures and accompanying dry spell, but also its lateness in the year—resulted in all-time-record highs in about a dozen locations from **eastern Texas** to **Alabama** from August 29 to September 2. (*Heat further intensified in some areas, especially in eastern and southern Texas, from September 3-5, resulting in additional record highs. See page 6 for additional details.*) For the week, well over 200 daily records and dozens of monthly (August and September) record highs were established. On Tuesday in **Alabama**, an all-time record was tied in **Tuscaloosa** (107°F) and broken in **Mobile** (105°F). A day later, all-time records were eclipsed in **Little Rock, AR** (111°F), **Alexandria, LA** (108°F), and **New Orleans' Audubon Park** (103°F). **Hot Springs, AR** notched a high of 114°F. On the last day of August, **El Dorado, AR** posted a record-tying high of 112°F, their eighth of 12 consecutive daily records. **El Dorado's** high temperatures averaged 107.3°F during the 12-day period.

Heat shifted slightly westward and northward as September began, resulting in an all-time-record-tying high of 107°F in **Houston, TX**, 5°F above their previous September standard. A day later, September records were tied or broken in nearly two dozens locations, including **Salina, KS** (110°F), **Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX** (109°F), **Lincoln, NE** (106°F), and **Sioux City, IA** (103°F). In **Dallas-Ft. Worth**, September 2 marked the 64th consecutive day without measurable precipitation, well above their previous record of 58 days set in November-December 1950 and May-July 1934. Elsewhere in **Texas**, **Abilene's** dry spell reached 63 days (July 2 - September 2), just shy of their June-August 1970 record of 72 days. Spells without measurable rain reaches 34 days in **Shreveport, LA**, 12 days behind the October-November 1921 standard, and 35 days in **Oklahoma City, OK**, 4 days behind the December 1985 - February 1986 record. Farther east, however, **Little Rock's** record-setting, 27-day (August 5-31) spell without a drop of rain ended with a 0.53-inch total on September 1.

In contrast, very cool weather prevailed in the **West**. In **Montana**, daily-record lows included 31°F (on Monday) in **Kalispell** and 37°F (on Tuesday) in **Havre**. On the 29th in **California**, highs of 59°F in **Santa Cruz** and 62°F in **Santa Rosa** were the stations' lowest on record during August. In **southern California**, daily-record lows on September 2 included 32°F in **Idyllwild** and 40°F on **Mount Wilson**. Heavy showers accompanied the cool weather in some locations. In **Nevada**, **Eureka** and **Ely** noted consecutive daily-record rainfall totals on August 29-30, totaling 0.63 and 1.43 inches, respectively. On the latter date, **Salt Lake City, UT** netted 1.31 inches, greater than their sum (1.29 inches) during the previous 90 days (June 1 - August 29). In **Washington**, **Spokane's** 57-day (July 7 - September 1) spell without measurable

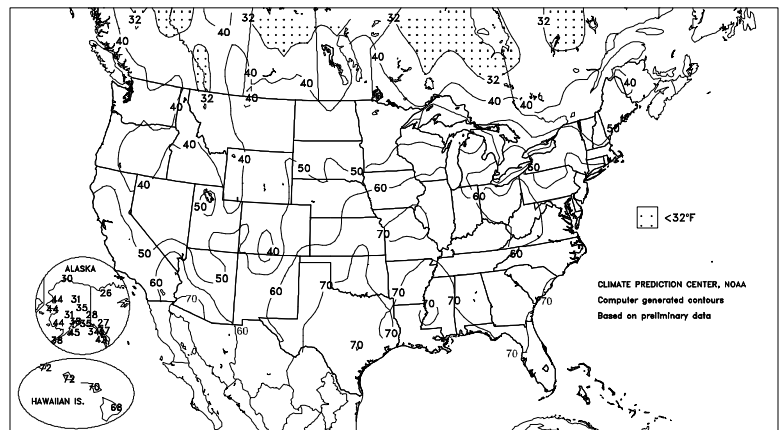
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

AUG 27 - SEP 2, 2000



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

AUG 27 - SEP 2, 2000



rainfall—their longest since 1988—ended on Saturday. Heavy rainfall was observed at a few locations in the **West**, including **Colorado Spring, CO** (2.99 inches on Monday) and **Redding, CA** (2.77 inches on Friday). Although the cooler, showery weather eased the threat of fires, the Nation's year-to-date burned acreage through August reached 6.5 million acres, nearly 230 percent of the 10-year average.

Weekly rainfall totaled 1 inch or more from **eastern Louisiana** to **Florida**, northward to the **northern Mid-Atlantic region**. Amounts exceeded 4 inches at several locations in the **central** and **southern Appalachians** and adjacent piedmont areas from **Georgia to southern Pennsylvania**. Locally heavy rainfall was also observed from **eastern North Dakota** to **northern Lower Michigan**.

In **Hawaii**, widespread, generally light showers continued to provide some long-term drought relief in leeward areas. On **Oahu**, **Honolulu's** August rainfall, 1.17 inches (266 percent of normal), represented their highest monthly total since 1.27 inches fell in January, and only the seventh occurrence of monthly rainfall greater than 1 inch during the November 1997 - August 2000 period (normal would be 23 months during such a 34-month period). Meanwhile in **Alaska**, showery weather returned to the mainland, but temperatures rebounded to near-normal levels. In **Fairbanks**, August rainfall totaled 3.04 inches (155 percent of normal). In addition, **Fairbanks' average maximum temperature** during August was just 59.2°F, their lowest during the 96-year period of record.